

Application No.: 09/939,206
Filing Date: August 24, 2001
Response to Final Office Action dated December 30, 2010

Amendments to the Claims:

1. – 45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A system for processing data associated with a freight shipment, comprising:

one or more computer processors configured to:

execute a rate sheet input module capable of accepting a plurality of rate sheets wherein each rate sheet specifies published freight rates and each rate sheet is associated with one of a plurality of freight carriers and is respectively structured according to one of a plurality of formats, the rate sheet input module ~~further~~ receiving and storing a rate sheet associated with a specific freight carrier ~~the one~~ of a plurality of freight carriers and structured according to a specific format ~~one~~ of the plurality of formats;

execute a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage module storing a plurality of templates, wherein a specific template ~~one~~ of the plurality of templates is associated with the ~~[[a]]~~ specific freight carrier and is structured according to the specific format ~~said one~~ of the plurality of formats to interpret the rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module producing an output by:

(a) selecting the specific template ~~one~~ of the plurality of templates by matching the specific freight carrier ~~one of the plurality of freight carriers~~ associated with the rate sheet with the specific freight carrier associated with the specific template ~~one of the plurality of templates~~; and

(b) interpreting the rate sheet by applying the specific template to the rate sheet; and

execute a rule generation module, the rule generation module receiving the output from the rate sheet analyzer and generating executable computer code based

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on the output, wherein when the computer code is executed, the computer code generates determining a freight charge associated with the freight carrier **using the selected one of the plurality of templates and the rate sheet.**

47. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 46 wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

48. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 46 wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 46 wherein the system further comprises a user-interface module adapted to receive input from a user indicating the specific freight carrier associated with the rate sheet.

50. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim **46 47** wherein the rate sheet analyzer module selects the **specific** template to interpret the rate sheet based on a keyword in the rate sheet.

51. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 50 wherein the keyword identifies the freight carrier.

52. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 50 wherein the selection of the **specific** template to interpret the rate sheet based on the keyword in the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.

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53. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 46 wherein the template storage module is in a remote location with respect to the rate sheet analyzer module.

54. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 53 further comprising:

the one or more computer processors configured to execute a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to the remote location, receiving the **specific** template adapted to interpret the received rate sheet, and providing the **specific** template to the template storage module.

55. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 50 further comprising the one or more computer processors configured to execute a tariffs module for calculating a tariff charge, the freight charge comprising the tariff charge.

56. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 55 further comprising the one or more computer processors configured to execute a compliance module for determining whether a proposed shipment of goods to a destination country complies with import regulations of the destination country.

57. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 46 further comprising the one or more computer processors configured to execute a logging module wherein the freight charge is stored in a file.

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58. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 46 further comprising the one or more computer processors configured to execute a packaging module wherein the freight charge is determined based in part on a package weight calculation provided by the packaging module.

59. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 46 further comprising:

the one or more computer processors configured to execute an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates and determining an accessorial charge wherein the freight charge comprises the accessorial charge.

60. **(Currently Amended)** A method of determining a charge associated with a freight shipment comprising:

receiving freight data associated with freight to be shipped;

receiving data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying published freight rates associated with a freight carrier;

storing the rate sheet;

selecting a template from a template storage module, via one or more computer devices executing a rate sheet analyzer module, by matching a first freight carrier associated with the template with a freight carrier indicated in the rate sheet;

retrieving the template from the template storage module to interpret the rate sheet, the template storage module storing a plurality of templates wherein each template is adapted to respectively interpret a particular rate sheet; **and**

producing output, via the one or more computer devices executing the rate sheet analyzer to interpret the rate sheet by applying the template to the rate sheet;

generating executable computer code based on the output via the one or more computer devices executing a rule generation module; and

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generating a freight charge, via the one or more computer devices ~~executing a rule generation module, by executing the computer code using the selected template to interpret the rate sheet in conjunction with the freight data.~~

61. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60 wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

62. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60 wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

63. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60 further comprising:
receiving input from a user providing identifying information associated with the rate sheet.

64. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 63 wherein the rate sheet identifying information associated with the rate sheet identifies the freight carrier associated with the rate sheet.

65. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 61 wherein retrieving the template from the template storage module to interpret the rate sheet is based on a keyword in the rate sheet.

66. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 65 wherein the keyword identifies the freight carrier.

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67. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 65 wherein retrieving the template from the template storage module to interpret the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.

68. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60 wherein the template storage module is in a remote location with respect to the rate sheet analyzer module.

69. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 68 further comprising the step of:
transmitting the rate sheet to the remote location; and
receiving an identifier associated with the rate sheet used by the rate sheet analyzer module to select the template.

70. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60 further comprising:
receiving a second template for interpreting a second rate sheet; and
storing the second template in the template storage module.

71. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 60 further comprising:
accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates; and
generating the freight charge comprising an accessorial charge, via the one or more computer devices ~~executing the rule generation module~~.

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72. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable medium product containing code executable by a computer processor for determining a freight charge comprising computer-readable program instructions adapted for:

accepting a plurality of rate sheets associated with a plurality of carriers wherein each rate sheet specifies published freight rates and each rate sheet is respectively structured according to one of a plurality of formats;

receiving a specific rate sheet associated with a specific freight carrier and structured according to a specific format ~~one~~ of the plurality of formats;

storing a plurality of templates wherein a specific template ~~one~~ of the plurality of templates is adapted to interpret the specific rate sheet;

selecting the specific template ~~one~~ of the plurality of templates to interpret the specific rate sheet by matching a first freight carrier associated with the specific template ~~one~~ of the plurality of templates with the specific freight carrier associated with the specific rate sheet; ~~and~~

producing output by interpreting the specific rate sheet based on the specific template; and

generating executable computer code based on the output, wherein when the computer code is executed, the computer code generates ~~calculating~~ the freight charge associated with the freight carrier ~~using the selected one of the plurality of templates and the specific rate sheet.~~

73. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the specific rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

74. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the specific rate sheet specifying zone-based rates.

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75. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the computer-readable program instructions are adapted for receiving input from a user to specify information about the specific rate sheet.

76. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 73 where the computer-readable program instructions are adapted for selecting the template to interpret the specific rate sheet based on a keyword in the rate sheet.

77. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 76 where the keyword identifies the freight carrier.

78. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 73 where the selection of the **specific** template to interpret the specific rate sheet based on the keyword in the rate sheet is based on the location of the keyword in the rate sheet.

79. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable medium product module of claim 72 wherein the computer-readable program instructions are adapted for:

communicating the **specific** rate sheet to a remote system for analysis; and

receiving an indication from the remote system identifying the **specific** template to interpret the specific rate sheet.

80. **(Canceled)**

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81. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the computer-readable program instructions are adapted for receiving **the plurality of** ~~and storing~~ templates.

82. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 72 wherein the computer-readable program instructions are adapted for accepting data representative of accessorial charges associated with the freight rates for generating an accessorial charge.

83. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable medium product of claim 82 wherein the computer-readable program instructions are adapted for calculating the freight charge comprising the accessorial charge.